

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-05 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

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R 261115Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7866

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SG, PINS, SCUL

SUBJ: SENEGALESE STUDENTS CONVICTED FOR
DISTRIBUTING TRACTS

REF: DAKAR 2435

1. NINE OF TEN YOUNG SENEGALESE, THE MAJORITY LYCEE STUDENTS AT VAN VOLLENHOVEN IN CENTRAL DAKAR, CHARGED BEFOCE STATE SECURITY COURT WERE CONVICTED JULY 23 OF DISTRIBUTING OR ABETTING DISTRIBUTION OF SUBVERSIVE TRACTS IN MAY THIS YEAR. LEADER OF STUDENTS, CHEIKH IBRAHIMA NIANG CONDEMNED TO ONE YEAR IN PRISON. FIVE OTHER STUDENTS RECEIVED FIVE MONTHS; WOMEN STUDENT RECEIVED SENTENCE OF TWO MONTHS; TWO BUREAUCRATS, MAME ABDOU DIOP AND BOCAR SAMBA SY, WHO OBTAINED AND HELPED DUPLICATE THE TRACTS FOR THE STUDENTS, SENTENCED TO 45 DAYS PLUS 50,000 FRANC FINE; AND TEACHER ABDOULAYE FALL, WHO LDNT HIS HOME AS MEETING PLACE ALSO FINED 50,000 FRANCS AND RECEIVED SUSPENDED SIX MONTH'S SENTENCE.

2. TRACTS REPORTEDLY ADVOCATED "DEMILITARIZATION OF SCHOOLS" AND PROTESTED AGAINST "REPRESSION IN COUNTRYSIDE". TRACTS ALSO CHARACTERIZED AS APPEALS TO PEASANTS AND WORKERS TO STRIKE. TRACTS DISTRIBUTED IN LYCEE.

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ACCORDING TO PROSECUTION, THEY "EXCEEDED THE FRAMEWORK OF

ORDINARY SCHOOL COMPLAINTS". JUDGING FROM EXTENSIVE REPORTAGE OF TRIAL, GOVERNMENT HAD SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO ESTABLISH THAT ALL BUT ONE OF ACCUSED, WHO ACQUITTED, HAD DISTRIBUTED TRACTS. UNAVAILING DEFENSE CONTENTION WAS THAT SENEGALESE SHOULD BE ABLE FREELY EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS AND THAT MERELY DISTRIBUTING TRACTS DID NOT, IN ANY CASE, CONSTITUTE ACT "TENDING TO THROW DISCREDIT ON GOVERNMENT OR TO PROVOKE GRAVE POLITICAL DISORDER", AS PROSECUTION CONTENTED.

3. COMMENT: DISTRIBUTION OF TRACTS PART OF GENERAL FERMENT AT VAN VOLLENHOVEN FEW MONTHS AGO (SEE REFTTEL) WHICH INCLUDED DEMONSTRATION AND MILD PUBLIC DISORDER. SIGNIFICANT THAT ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT ACTIVITIES APPARENTLY CONFINED TO VAN VOLLENHOVEN. GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING USUAL PATTERN OF HANDLING SUCH CASES: SOME IMPRISONMENT FOR ALL IDENTIFIABLE PARTICIPANTS WITH RELATIVELY LENIENT SENTENCES HANDED DOWN TO ALL EXCEPT RINGLEADERS. JUDGING FROM PAST PATTERN SUCH AFFAIRS, EVEN LATTER MAY BE PARDONED PRIOR TO SERVING THEIR FULL SENTENCES.

AGGREY

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